

the island, both native and cultivated, or mention is often made of the latter without description. Each of the native and naturalized species among the flowering plants and ferns is accompanied by an illustration, which, as in *Illustrated Flora*, forms an invaluable aid to identification. In fact, not only is this the best book on the flora of the island, it is practically the only one, so far as the general public is concerned.

Special groups such as Fungi, Algae, etc., have been contributed by experts, mostly Dr. Britton's associates at the New York Botanical Garden. The inclusion of these groups and also 864 cultivated plants makes the volume the "most complete description of all the plants of a small area that has ever been published."

When normal travel is resumed, the book will have a large field of usefulness to the host of people who annually visit the Island, and it makes a notable addition to this author's previous volumes.

NORMAN TAYLOR.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

APRIL 9, 1918

The meeting was held at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. President Richards occupied the chair. There were thirty persons present.

The following persons were nominated and elected to membership: Miss Mabel L. Merriman, Hunter College, New York City; Miss Grace E. Stone, Teachers College, New York City; and Dr. Richard H. Boerker, 104 West 85th Street, New York City.

No other business was transacted at this meeting.

Dr. Edmund W. Sinnott delivered the lecture of the evening; an abstract of his lecture on "Australian Plants" is appended. The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides.

The speaker was able to spend nearly a year in Australia and New Zealand in 1910-11 in collecting embryological and anatomical material of certain plant families.

The humid subtropical region of southern Queensland, the flora of which includes a large Malayan element, was visited;

as was the interior of New South Wales, with its more arid climate and typically "Australian" vegetation, the Proteaceae, Myrtaceae and Leguminosae being predominant. In Victoria, especial attention was paid to the forests of very tall eucalyptus trees. A short stay was made in West Australia.

New Zealand was covered rather thoroughly and extensive collections made of the flowers of the Podocarpaceae and of *Agathis australis*, the Kauri pine. The Southern Alps, with their wonderful alpine flora, were visited, as was the "Fossil Forest" at the southern tip of the Dominion.

The floras of Australia and New Zealand present many interesting phytogeographical problems, possessing four distinct elements, the Australian, Himalayan, Malayan and Antarctic. Several hypotheses, involving previous land connections and climatic changes, have been put forward to explain the facts.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

NEWS ITEMS

We learn with regret of the death, early in June, of Frank N. Meyer, one of the most successful agricultural explorers ever sent out by the Government. Thousands of valuable plants from China and Japan have been sent by him to the Bureau of Plant Industry and from there distributed as "Plant Immigrants." Excepting only E. H. Wilson probably no recent explorer has sent such rich collections from the East. Mr. Meyer was missed from a steamer on the Yangste, from which river his body was afterwards taken. There were no indications as to the cause of death.